

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-14. Cancelled.

15. (Currently Amended) A protective wire net comprising an array of longitudinal wires arranged side by side and each intertwined with at least one respective adjacent longitudinal wire, said net further comprising one or more longitudinal metal cables each intertwined or interlaced with at least one adjacent longitudinal wire and interposed between at least two of the intertwined longitudinal wires.

16. Cancelled.

17. (Currently Amended) A protective wire net according to Claim 15, further comprising a plurality of ~~the~~ said longitudinal metal cables arranged at regular intervals relative to one another and alternating with one or more of said wires.

18. (Previously Presented) A protective wire net according to Claim 15, wherein at least one of the longitudinal metal cables defines an edge of the net.

19. (Currently Amended) A protective wire net comprising:

an array of longitudinal wires arranged side by side and each intertwined with at least one respective adjacent longitudinal wire; and according to Claim 15, further comprising

one or more transverse wires and/or metal cables arranged in a transverse direction relative to the longitudinal wires and outside or inside intertwining regions defined by portions of adjacent longitudinal wires which are bent around one another, the transverse wires and/or metal cables being

intertwined or interlaced with one or more of the longitudinal wires and interposed between at least two intertwined longitudinal wires.

20. (Previously Presented) A protective wire net according to Claim 19, wherein the transverse cables comprise bent portions of the longitudinal cables.

21. (Previously Presented) A protective wire net according to Claim 20, further comprising anchoring means for anchoring one or more transverse wires and/or metal cables to one or more longitudinal wires and/or longitudinal metal cables.

22. (Currently Amended) A protective wire net according to Claim 21, wherein the anchoring means comprise at least one ring or eye, ~~or a portion of longitudinal and/or transverse cable that is bent and secured to itself in order to form a loop-like element, which is provided on the longitudinal and/or transverse metal cables, and through which ring or eye at least one longitudinal wire or one longitudinal or transverse metal cable extends.~~

23. (Previously Presented) A protective wire net according to Claim 22, further comprising coupling means so as to couple, in use, the wire net to other protective wire nets.

24. (Previously Presented) A protective wire net according to Claim 23, wherein the coupling means comprises one of the following elements: rings, clips, cables, or equivalent means.

25. (Previously Presented) A protective wire net according to Claim 23, wherein the coupling means comprises coupling elements formed directly on one or more transverse cables.

26. (Previously Presented) A protective wire net according to Claim 15, wherein it is a double-twist net with hexagonal meshes.

27. (Currently Amended) A protective wire net comprising an array of longitudinal wires arranged side by side and each intertwined with at least one respective adjacent longitudinal wire, one or more transverse wires and/or metal cables arranged in a transverse direction relative to the longitudinal wires, the transverse wires and/or metal cables being intertwined or interlaced with one or more of the longitudinal wires, wherein each end of the transverse wires or metal cables comprises a ring anchoring means for anchoring one or more transverse wires or metal cables to one or more of the longitudinal wires characterized in that it further ~~comprises anchoring means for anchoring one or more transverse wires and/or metal cables to one or more of the longitudinal wires.~~

28. (Currently Amended) A protective wire net according to Claim 27, wherein the ring anchoring means comprise at least one ring or eye, ~~or a portion of longitudinal and/or transverse cable that is bent and secured to itself in order to form a loop-like element, which is provided on the longitudinal and/or transverse wires or metal cables, and through which ring or eye at least one longitudinal wire or one transverse metal cable extends.~~

29. (Previously Presented) A protective structure, comprising at least one protective wire net according to Claim 27 and fixing means for fixing the net to a slope.

30. (Previously Presented) A protective structure according to Claim 29, further comprising at least two of the said protective wire nets joined together by coupling means.

31. (Currently Amended) A protective structure according to Claim 30, wherein the coupling means comprise at least one longitudinal and/or transverse metal cable.

32. (Currently Amended) Use of a protective wire net comprising an array of longitudinal wires arranged side by side and each intertwined with at least one respective adjacent longitudinal wire, one or more transverse wires and/or metal cables arranged in a transverse direction relative to the longitudinal wires, the transverse wires and/or metal cables being intertwined or interlaced with one or more of the longitudinal wires, and anchoring means for anchoring one or more transverse wires and/or metal cables to one or more of the longitudinal wires, for the construction of a protective structure according to Claim 29.

33. (New) A protective wire net comprising:

an array of longitudinal wires arranged side by side and each intertwined with at least one respective adjacent longitudinal wire; and

one or more longitudinal metal cables, each cable being intertwined or interlaced with at least one adjacent longitudinal wire, the longitudinal metal cables having portions around which twisted portions of at least two adjacent longitudinal wires are twisted.

34. (New) A protective wire net according to Claim 22, wherein the ring or eye is formed by a portion of a longitudinal and/or transverse metal cable that is bent and secured to itself to form a loop.

35. (New) A protective structure according to Claim 28, wherein said ring or eye is formed by a portion of a transverse wire or metal cable that is bent and secured to itself to form a loop.